

SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

NAVIGATING YOUR COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAY!

AUGUST

- ☐ Create a list of potential colleges, universities, or career paths.
- ☐ Visit campuses, if possible, and attend virtual college tours or career seminars.
- ☐ Look into application requirements, deadlines, and potential financial aid opportunities.
- ☐ Register for any standardized tests (SAT/ACT) needed for college admissions. Consider retaking if you want to improve your scores.
- ☐ Update your resume, including all extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and any work experience.
- ☐ Create your [Parchment](#) account for transcripts.

SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Finalize College List: Narrow down your list of colleges and note the application deadlines for each.
- ☐ Letters of Recommendation: Request LOR from teachers or employers. Use [Senior Fact Sheet](#) or for counselor letters [CollegeVine](#)
- ☐ Begin Applications: Start drafting your college applications and essays. Set deadlines for completing each section.
- ☐ Visit college fairs and talk to college representatives to gather more information.
- ☐ FAFSA Preparation: Gather the necessary documents to complete the 2027-2028 FAFSA.

OCTOBER

- ☐ Submit FAFSA - Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after October 1 to maximize financial aid opportunities. studentaid.gov

OCTOBER (Cont.)

- ☐ Early Decision/Action Applications: Submit early decision and early action applications by their respective deadlines.
- ☐ Confirm and pay for AP exams by November 1st.
** **AP Testing Occurs in May**
- ☐ Attend **SIUE COLLEGE FAIR**- OCT 26TH 6pm-7:30pm
- ☐ Interested in enlisting in the armed services? Sign up for the **ASVAB** October 21st administration.
- ☐ Search private, local, and school specific scholarships on the OTHS website.
- ☐ Check out these additional scholarship resources!
 - [College Greenlight](#)
 - [Fastweb](#)

NOVEMBER

- ☐ Finalize Essays – Revise and finalize college application essays.
- ☐ Standardized Test Scores: Ensure that all SAT/ACT scores are sent to the colleges on your list.
- ☐ Regular Decision Applications: Continue working on regular decision applications. Aim to complete them before winter break.

DECEMBER

- ☐ Application Submission: Submit all regular decision applications and make sure all necessary documents have been sent.
- ☐ Scholarship Applications: Continue to search and apply for scholarship. Many have Dec. deadlines.
- ☐ Mid-Year Reports: Request your school to send MYR to colleges, if required.

JANUARY

- ☐ Financial Aid: Complete any additional financial aid forms required by the colleges you've applied to (e.g., CSS Profile).
- ☐ Scholarship Follow-Up: Follow-Up on pending scholarship applications and continue to search and apply for scholarships.

February – March

- ☐ Attend St. Louis Metro East Illinois Regional College Fair (SWIC)
- ☐ College Interviews: Schedule and attend college interviews, if applicable.
- ☐ Decision Letters: Watch for admissions decisions and financial aid offers from colleges and universities (check your email).
- ☐ Compare Financial Aid Offers: Use a spreadsheet to compare financial aid offers from different colleges and universities.
- ☐ Confirm and pay for AP exams by March 1st. ****Spring AP courses only****

APRIL

- ☐ Apply to community colleges.
- ☐ Final College Decision: Make your final decision on which college to attend. Consider factors like financial aid, campus culture, and academic programs.
- ☐ Notify the college of your choice and submit any required deposit by the National College Decision Day on May 1.
- ☐ Waitlist Updates: If you are waitlisted, inform the college of your continued interest and update them on any new achievements or grades.
- ☐ Honors Night & Awards Ceremony – April 26th

MAY

- ☐ Take AP exams if applicable.
- ☐ National College Decision Day – May 1st
- ☐ Submit Final Transcripts: Request your high school to send your final transcripts to the college you will be attending.
- ☐ Plan for Orientation: Register for college orientation sessions and make travel plans.
- ☐ Celebrate! Celebrate your achievements and look forward to the next chapter of your life!
- ☐ Request your FINAL OTHS transcript to be sent through parchment (Request before July 1st)
- ☐ Interested in entering the workforce after graduation? Explore different occupations and learn about careers and technical education programs.
[Illinois Work Net Education Planner](#)

Helpful Advice:

- ☐ **Stay organized by using a calendar to track all deadlines and requirements.**
- ☐ **Regularly communicate with your school counselor for guidance and support.**
- ☐ **Don't forget to enjoy your senior year and create lasting memories**